

C. Remarks

The last Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and the above amendments are presented in order to place this application in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 1 and dependent Claims 4 and 8 were rejected by the Examiner as unpatentable over the patent issued to Reinert. That rejection is respectfully traversed. However, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the structure in Applicant's invention which is not present in the Reinert reference.

In particular, the Examiner, in rejecting independent Claim 1, states that Fig. 13 shows an inner ring 205 with an annular groove on the flange 206 and stop holes 207 which cooperate with fasteners 120 for removably supporting the cylindrical outer ring. This description by the Examiner is incorrect.

The element 205 is not in fact an outer ring; as described in the application, and particularly at column 14, beginning on line 4, the element 205 is in fact a light fixture, and particularly a new type of airport inset lighting fixture by Hughes Phillips. It is integral with the element 200 that is further described as a portion of the light fixture. Hence, the element 205 is not a ring. While the element does have a flange 206 that has drilled holes in it 209, it does not have "a plurality of grooves", as required in Claim 1. In addition, Claim 1 requires that the plurality of grooves are formed on the exterior surface of the ring. Although the Examiner contends that the flange 206 of the Reinert reference has "an annular groove", it does not have plural grooves and those grooves are not formed on the exterior or side surface of the light fixture in Reinert.

Still further, Claim 1 as originally filed required cooperating means on the middle ring for removably supporting the inner ring on the middle ring. In the Reinert

reference, the light element 205 is simply bolted onto the flange 262 of the lower ring element. The light fixture 205 in Reinert is supported by the engagement of the flange 206 with the flange 262 of the lower ring. It is that engagement which supports the inner ring, not the bolts that secure the two rings together.

Accordingly, it is believed that Claim 1 as originally filed distinguishes over the Reinert reference. However, for clarity, Claim 1 has been amended to specify that each of the rings has a central opening, which clearly is not present in the light fixture 205 in Reinert; and that means are provided on the inner ring for mounting the outer ring in a surface in which the light fixture is to be recessed.

Still further, Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the exterior surface being referred to is the surface which is parallel to the threaded surface of the outer and middle rings. That recitation distinguishes the location of the grooves in the present invention from the single "groove" or recess shown in the Reinert reference.

For all of the above reasons, Claim 1 as amended herewith is believed to be allowable.

Claim 2, which was indicated by the Examiner as being allowable, has been re-written to incorporate the subject matter of originally presented Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 2 and the Claims which depend from it, i.e., Claims 3 and 4, are allowable.

Claim 5 was indicated as being allowable by the Examiner, and has been rewritten to incorporate the subject matter of Claims 4 and 5, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 6 was indicated by the Examiner as being allowable, and has been rewritten to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 1 as originally filed, and therefore is allowable.

Claim 7 depends from Claim 6 and is allowable therewith.

Claim 8 depends from Claim 1 and is believed to be allowable with Claim 1 for the reasons discussed above.

Claims 9 and 10 have previously been allowed.

Claims 11 through 16 depend from Claim 1 as presented above, and are believed to be allowable therewith.

Claim 17 is similar to Claim 5 as amended above, except that the recitation of the peripheral flange on the cylindrical outer ring has been left out. Claim 18 is similar to Claim 6 as amended above, again with the reference to the peripheral flange on the outer ring omitted. These claims are believed to be allowable for the same reasons as Claims 5 and 6.

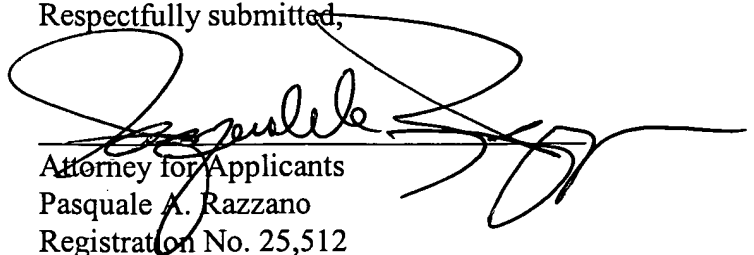
Claims 19 and 20 depend from Claim 18 and are believed to be allowable therewith for the same reasons.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is solicited.

Any deficiencies or overpayment in connection with the filing of this Amendment should be charged/credited to Applicant's Attorneys' Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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